

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 21, 2007 has been carefully considered. Claims 13-17 and 21-26 are pending in the application, with claim 13 being the only independent claim. Claims 13, 21 and 24 have been amended. Claims 18-20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 and 21 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of now canceled claims 18-20. Thus, amended claim 13 corresponds to allowable claim 20, written in independent form. Therefore, amended claim 13 is now allowable.

Dependent claims 14-17 and 21-26 are allowable for at least the same reasons that amended independent claim 13 is allowable, as well as for the additional limitations recited therein.

Drawing Requirement

The Examiner requires new corrected drawings because a copy of the drawings is missing from the application. However, Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that the PTO has received a copy of the underlying International Application, which includes a complete set of the drawings. Moreover, the published version of the application (i.e., US 2007/0186377) includes a complete set of the drawings. No changes have been made to these drawings during prosecution. In view of the above, it is clear that a complete set of drawings has already been received.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the requirement for a set of drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Objection and Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 24 has been amended to address the informality noted in the Office Action.

Please note that the expression "at least one of a projection and a recess" recited in original claim 20 is correct. Here, applicant does not want to merely recite "at least one projection". Rather, applicant wants to recite at least one of A (a projection) and B (a recess). This limitation is now incorporated in independent claim 13.

Furthermore, please note that the expression "the locking component" recited in original claim 21 has antecedent basis in independent claim 13, from which claim 21 now depends.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, of original claims 20, 21, and 24 should now be withdrawn.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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